


Counterfeit Money Is Made and  
"Shoved."  
MAKERS OF THE "QUEER"  
Exploits of Some Famous  
Operators.  
THE ROGUES' GALLERY,  
and the "Curiosity Shop" of the  
Secret Service.

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Some time ago an article in THE NATIONAL HUNTER described the process by which counterfeit money is made at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It is the purpose of the present article to tell something about counterfeit money, how it is made and "shoved," as termed from the Secret Service of the Treasury Department. All these operations are directed daily from several rooms on the third floor of the Treasury Building. As may be imagined from the foregoing, its business is to detect frauds upon Government, of every kind, and particularly the counterfeiting of paper money, coins, and revenue stamps. It has its secretists and detectives—generally the shrewdest of their class—in every part of the country. The operations of all these are directed daily from the headquarters of the service here. The secretists know just where every man is and what he is doing. All are required to make daily reports of their operations to the Secret Service people who will tell you, if you ask them when they are not too busy, a many very curious and interesting things.



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For other things he will not tell you. His information consists wholly of what has been done. If you inquire concerning any "job," it is being "worked up," you will be given to understand that that is none of your business, as to those who engrave the plates for currency, or the dies for coin. Offenders in this class are very different from the ordinary law breakers, such as thieves and burglars. They are generally men of superior intelligence and education, keen, cunning and crafty, who would be ornaments to society if their talents were directed into lawful channels of endeavor. They do, in fact, make their mark in the world, but it is upon the wrong side of the scale. They fully realize their constant peril from the sharp eyes of the Government detectives and the punishment that awaits them if caught, for the laws to protect the integrity of the currency are very stringent, and the penalties severe. It generally takes a "gang" of three or four to plan and manage a class scheme of counterfeiting. Every step of detection is most carefully guarded, and the work is carried on with the greatest secrecy. In a majority of cases the diligence and patience of the agents of the Secret Service are not to the amount of what they have to deal, these detectives are most expert that can be found. None is given up. Often men are changed even as they are spent upon a single case before the case is secured.

During the past 20 years, an amount of counterfeit paper money now in circulation is said to be less than at any time since the war was the great opportunity of the counterfeiters. The flood of new paper money issued by the Government and by the National Banks, came so suddenly into existence, opened the rogues a great field of industry, and made the most of it. Many excellent counterfeiters soon found their appearance, inuring all the denominations of "scrip" or small paper currency. There was no "take" anything that looked like money. Large quantities of it were floated



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The Government had all it could attend to in putting down the rebellion, and did not, very probably, put forth such efficient efforts to detect the counterfeiters as now. In the close of the war and for a few years after, the amount of counterfeit money in circulation was so large as to seriously debase the currency. One great advantage to the counterfeiters lay in the uniform appearance of bills of any given denomination, issued by the National Banks. The genuine bills are engraved and printed in Washington, and for instance, a five dollar National Bank note of 1862, except the name of the bank and signatures of its officers which appear on the top. It is true that once every few years an engraving upon the note is changed and given time all are uniform. It will be seen that with a single set of plates,